GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department - Disciplinary action initiated against Sri A.Ravindra Reddy, Forest Range Officer (Retd.) earlier worked as FRO, S.F.Range, Kadapa of SF Division., Kadapa of Kurnool Circle under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CC & A) Rules, 1991 – Penalty of "2% cut of pension for a period of (3) years " – Imposed – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIECNE & TECHONLY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.61

Dated.05.09.2023.

Read the following:

1. From the PCCF &HoFF, A.P., Guntur Ref.no.1376/2020/A&DC-3, dated 18.11.2022.
2. Memo.No.2857/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 24.02.2023.
3. From the PCCF &HoFF, A.P., Guntur Ref.no.1376/2020/A&DC-3, dated 08.05.2023.
4. Letter.No.2857/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 12.06.2023.
5. From the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada, File.No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/64/2023-DC.SEC-APPSC (Computer No.2140978), dated 09.08.2023.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has informed that an Article of Charge was issued to Sri A.Ravindra Reddy, FRO (Retd.) earlier worked as FRO, S.F.Range, Kadapa of SF Division, Kadapa of Kurnool Circle by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF in the Rc.No.1376/17/2020/Vig-1, dated 21.03.2020 under Rule-20 of A.P.C.S. (CC&A) Rules, 1991 on the following count.

Article-1	"That Sri A.Ravindra Reddy, FRO, during his tenure of working as Forest Range Officer, kadapa (SF) Range of Kadapa (SF) Division, he has failed to achieve the plantation targets under MGNREGS Scheme during the year 2015-16, also failed in maintenance of M.Books, plantation journals and nursery journals etc.. and not obeyed the instructions of the higher Officers, which caused dislocation of the administration and thereby violated the provisions contained under Section 155 of A.P.Forest Department Code Volume-I".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the Article of Charge on 26.03.2020 and did not submit his written defence. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests& HoFF appointed the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kadapa as Presenting Officer in the Proc.no.1376/2020/Vig-1(i&ii) dated 22.06.2020 for conducting regular inquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer i.e., Conservator of Forests., Kurnool Circle has submitted findings along with the connected case record in the Ref.no.5049/2015/M1, dated 23.07.2022, wherein the Inquiry Officer concluded as follows:-

Findings of the Inquiry Officer :

On the basis of documentary and oral evidence adduced in the case before me and in view of the reasons given above, I hold that the following is my final conclusion on the Charges levelled against the charged Officer Sri A.Ravindra Reddy, F.R.O (Retired).

P.T.O.

It is submitted that all the (13) count of charges levelled against the Charged Officer relates to neglect of duties and most of the count of charges are minor and all the count of charges are devoid of financial implications. The count of charges (1), (2), (3) &(8) are not proved during the regular enquiry and the count of charges **(4), (6), (7) & (12)** are proved and benefit of doubt can be given to count of charges **(5), (9), (10), (11) &(13)** as there is no concrete evidence for this count of charges to prove.

4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer in the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur Proc.No.1376/2020/A&DC-3, dated 11.10.2022 for submission of his further defence statement. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the final notice on 27.10.2022 and submitted his further defence statement dated nil.

5. Since the Charged Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on A.N of 31.03.2020, disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule-9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. After careful examination of the matter, the Department have taken a provisional decision to impose a penalty of **"2% cut of pension for a period of (3) years"** against Sri A. Ravindra Reddy, FRO(Retd), earlier worked as FRO, SF Range, Kadapa of SF Division, Kadapa of Kurnool Circle.

7. Accordingly, in the Memo 2nd read above, a show-cause notice has been issued to the Charged Officer. The Charged Officer acknowledged receipt of the show cause notice on 20.04.2023 and submitted his explanation on 29.04.2023. In his explanation the Charged Officer accepted the provisional decision of the Government i.e., **"2% cut of pension for a period of (3) years"** and requested the Government to finalize the disciplinary case, at an early date.

8. After careful examination of the entire issue, the Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a punishment of "2% cut of pension for a period of (3) years" against Sri A.Ravindra Reddy, FRO (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, SF Range, Kadapa of SF Division, Kadapa of Kurnool Circle, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules 1980.

9. On communication, in the letter 5th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, has informed that Commission agreed with the proposal of the Government, to impose the punishment of "(2%) two percent cut in pension for a period of three (03) years" against Sri A. Ravindra Reddy, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, SF Range, Kadapa of SF Division., Kadapa of Kurnool Circle and advised accordingly.

10. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government hereby order to impose a penalty of "(2%) two percent cut in pension for a period of three (03) years" against Sri A. Ravindra Reddy, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, SF Range, Kadapa of SF Division., Kadapa of Kurnool Circle under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

11. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri A. Ravindra Reddy, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, SF Range, Kadapa of SF Division., Kadapa of Kurnool Circle (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri)

(Contd.P.-3)

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri. w.e (Connected record File Rc.No.5049/2015/M1, CF pages 1-294).

Copy to:-

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1935460)

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER